

enormous profits and give their office employees beggarly wages. The workers of Chicago should agitate for insurance by the state at cost. Other states and countries are doing it. Why not Illinois?—F. B.

**PROHIBITION AND THE WORKERS.** — Will prohibition benefit the working class? Some Forum writers tell us it will. I say it will not, and will state a few of my reasons.

More than half the territory of the United States is under prohibition, but the working class is worse off now than it was five years ago. Our necessities have doubled in price. Some articles have increased 400 per cent in price. Wages have increased about 10 per cent. A smaller number of working men have their homes paid for than was the case five years ago. This is true in prohibition states as well as wet states.

When Oregon went dry one brewery went into the tannery business, another in the shoe business. Are you paying less for shoes now than you did two years ago? Has the working class benefited by the change? Some men who could make enough money in the saloon business to send their children to school and keep their wife at home now have to send their wives and children to the shoe factory to work to keep the family alive.

The brewing companies were in the business for profit. When the state went dry they could not let their property lie idle. They went into the shoe business. They had to employ labor to make profit. The war has created conditions that make this business very profitable. The brewing companies probably find the leather and shoe business so profitable that they will be willing to continue prohibition while the slaughter of human life keeps on in Europe, or else their country becomes concerned in the slaughtering business. What benefit does the

working class derive from these conditions?

Prohibition is the dope used by the big capitalists and their stool pigeons (the big newspapers and fake reformers) to chloroform the workingman, so they can rob him out of his labor. It is not the \$15 a year that the average workingman's family spend for liquor that keeps them in poverty. It is the \$2,500 worth of labor that he produces each year, of which he does not see a penny, that keeps him in poverty. Some of the big business men spend more in one evening for booze than the average workingman's family spend in a year. Still he rolls in wealth while the workingman rolls in poverty.

The worker will need something different from prohibition to get him out of the hell he is in. The "boot-legger," the "fake doctor" and certain druggists want prohibition. It gives them an opportunity to sell cheap, rotten booze, without a license, at the same time charging you double what you pay in the saloon for good whisky. The Billy Sunday type of "sky pilots" like to keep the question of prohibition before the public—it means more money to them than playing baseball. Workingmen, remember that the big capitalist donates money to help prohibition because he knows where to place his money to bring him a large dividend. Demand all you create and use it for the comfort and pleasure of your families and yourselves.—Clarence A. Diehl.

#### Basketball Scores

Illinois 21, Northwestern 12.  
Minnesota 31, Iowa 19.  
Ohio State 30, Indiana 14.  
Bowen lights 14, Phillips 9.  
Bowen bantams 13, Phillips 13.  
Hyde Park bantams 13, Medill 10.  
Crane lights 25, Calumet 19.  
Lane heavies 22, St. Ignatius 11.  
Boys' Club 26, La Salle 8.  
Seminoles 29, Albany Park 2.  
Cornell Cent. 32, Hyde Pk. "Y" 12.